

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-27 are currently pending.

By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13 have been amended to delete reference to “means” language. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-27 would be pending.

To assist the Examiner, attached to this Amendment is an “Attachment” that shows the amendments made to the claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13 by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

II. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

The Examiner acknowledges Applicants’ claim to priority for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f), but indicates that some of Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants respectfully submit that the all certified copy of the Japanese Priority Document No. 9-207923 filed in Japan on August 1, 1997 was mailed on September 15, 1998 and received by the Patent Office on September 21, 1998. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the all certified copy of the Japanese Priority Document. A copy of the stamped postcard, Claim to Convention Priority and Certificate of Mailing are enclosed herewith.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,067,624 to Kuno. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims, for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 are directed to an arrangement in which an acquisition request for a video camera control right is transmitted to the camera server when the video camera control command is input at the client.

On the contrary, Kuno is directed to a system and method in which a plurality of client apparatuses, which issue a request to obtain a control privilege, are registered in a camera control queue provided to obtain control privilege of controlling an image sensing apparatus. When it is detected that one of the plurality of client apparatuses registered in the queue has issued a control request to control the image sensing apparatus, it is determined whether or not the client apparatus who has issued the control request possesses the control privilege or whether or not shifting of the control privilege should be executed based on a control-privilege possessing time of a client apparatus which currently has the privilege. Kuno is simply silent as to transmitting acquisition request for a video camera control right to the camera server when the video camera control command is input at the client. The Examiner also has not adequately address this limitation in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 7, 14 and 21 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference.

Independent claims 13, 20 and 27 is directed to an arrangement in which if the video camera control command from a client not registered is received, the client is registered if there is no other client registered.

As discussed above, Kuno is directed to a system and method involving registered clients in a queue, and is silent as to: if the video camera control command from a client not registered is received, the client is registered if there is no other client registered. The Examiner also does not adequately address this limitation in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, claim 13, 20 and 27 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-27 and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4459. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

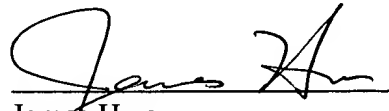
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4459. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 21, 2003

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AUTHORIZATION

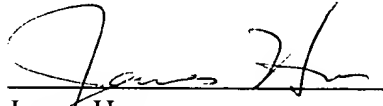
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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 Serial No.: 09/126,833 Group Art Unit: 2612
 Filed: July 30, 1998 Examiner: J. HANNETT
 For: CAMERA CONTROL SYSTEM

ATTACHMENT

Amendments made to the claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13 herein are indicated in this attachment by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note the following changes to claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13:

1. (Amended) A camera control system capable of controlling a video camera connected to a camera server by transmitting a video camera control command from a client, wherein said client comprises input [means] unit for inputting a video camera control command; and control request transmitting [means] unit for transmitting an acquisition request for a video camera control right to the camera server, when the video camera control command is input from said input [means] unit,

and wherein the camera server comprises permission command issuing [means] unit for issuing a permission of the video camera control right to said client, in response to the acquisition control request for the video camera control right issued by said request transmitting [means] unit of said client; and control [means] unit for

controlling the video camera in accordance with the video camera control command issued by said client.

2. (Amended) A camera control system according to claim 1, wherein if the client is not granted the video camera control right, said control request transmitting [means] unit transmits the acquisition request for the video camera control right.

3. (Amended) A camera control system according to claim 1, wherein the client further comprises:

storage [means] unit for storing the video camera control command input by said input [means] unit, the video camera control command according to the transmission of the acquisition request for the video camera control right; and control command issuing [means] unit for issuing the video camera control command stored in said storage [means] unit to the camera server, when a permission of the video camera control right is issued from said permission command issuing [means] unit.

4. (Amended) A camera control system a according to claim 1, wherein said control request transmitting [means] unit transmits at the same time the acquisition request for the video camera control right and the video camera control command input by said input [means] unit.

5. (Amended) A camera control system according to claim 1, wherein said control request transmitting [means] unit transmits the acquisition request for the video camera control right and in succession the video camera control command input by said input [means] unit.

7. (Amended) A client capable of controlling a video camera via a network, comprising:

input [means] unit for inputting a video camera control command; and control request transmitting [means] unit for transmitting an acquisition request for a video camera control right to the camera server, when the video camera control command is input from said input [means] unit.

8. (Amended) A client according to claim 7, wherein if the client is not granted the video camera control right, said control request transmitting [means] unit transmits the acquisition request for the video camera control right.

9. (Amended) A client according to claim 7, wherein the client further comprises:

storage [means] unit for storing the video camera control command input by said input [means] unit, the video camera control command according to the transmission of the acquisition request for video camera control right; and

control command issuing [means] unit for issuing the video camera control command stored in said storage [means] unit to a camera server, when a permission of the video camera control right is issued.

10. (Amended) A client according to claim 7, wherein said control request transmitting [means] unit transmits at the same time the acquisition request for the video camera control right and the video camera control command input by said input [means] unit.

11. (Amended) A client according to claim 7, wherein said control request transmitting [means] unit transmits the acquisition request for the video camera control right and in succession the video camera control command input by said input [means] unit.

13. (Amended) A camera server for controlling a video camera in accordance with an input video camera control command, comprising:

control [means] unit for controlling the video camera in accordance with the video camera control command issued by a client granted a video camera control right;

register [means] unit for registering the client granted the video camera control right; and

reception [means] unit for receiving the video camera control command,

wherein if the video camera control command from a client not registered in said register [means] unit is received, said register [means] unit registers the client if there is no other client registered, and said control [means] unit controls the video camera in accordance with the video camera control command.

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